

# Editorial



## *Voting in the Primary Election*

Aug. 28 is a very important day in Alaska because it's the date of the Primary Election, and we urge everyone to make sure they cast their vote that day. Absentee ballots are available for anyone who can't actually vote the day of the election.

We've been running a series of articles about the importance of voting to the Alaska Native community by Terrance H. Booth, who is from Metlakatla. Booth has done a good job in explaining what's at stake in this election.

He's made a lot about the fact that a number of the current legislators are responsible for doing nothing at the state level to solve Alaska's current chaotic subsistence situation. This is not a minor transgression, it's a serious blunder on the part of some of the people elected to Alaska's Legislature. Voters should take a hard look at what their legislator did — *or did not do* — on the subsistence issue when they cast their votes.

There are two ballot issues facing voters next week, and we've already stated our opposition to legalizing gambling in Alaska. We believe this initiative would only serve to increase social problems and misery in the state.

The other ballot issue would change state laws governing the Alaska Railroad, prohibiting the transport of freight between Alaska and other states, banning more than 60 days credit to other carriers and making public rate agreements and other shipper information.

It appears the overall effect of this initiative would be to increase the costs of transportation in the state, and that's certainly something rural Alaska does not need. We urge a vote against this ballot issue. Officials managing the Alaska Railroad are doing a good job, and they should be allowed to continue their work.

The field of candidates for many offices throughout the state will be narrowed considerably as a result of this election, and we urge people to make sure they are part of the decision-making process. The Alaska Native community can have a big impact on elections, and the people selected as our leaders must take note of the many issues facing Alaska Natives.